

SST8 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Least Restrictive Environment

Since the Education for All Handicapped Children Act was passed in 1975, schools have been required to provide children with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

LRE Provisions:

(2) Each public agency must ensure that -

(i) To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are

nondisabled; and

(ii) Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only if the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

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Continuum of Supports and Services

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A child's placement in the regular education classroom is the first option the IEP team must consider when determining where a child with a disability will receive his or her special education and related services.

To decide that question, however, the IEP team must make an individualized inquiry into the possible range of supplementary aids and services that are needed to satisfactorily educate the child in the regular education environment. If the IEP team determines that the child can be adequately educated in that environment, then a regular education placement is the LRE for that child.

However, the IEP team may determine that the child cannot be

educated satisfactorily in the regular education classroom, even when supplementary aids and services are provided. An alternative placement must then be considered. Accordingly, IDEA requires school systems to ensure that a "continuum of alternative placements" is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities for special education and related services.

"Chapter 1.3: Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)."
Federal and State Requirements. Ohio Department of Education, n.d. Web. 1 Mar. 2016.

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Agency Spotlight

Tri-County's mission is to empower citizens with disabilities to be in charge of their lives and participate as members of their communities. Through their collective strength, they advocate for the elimination of social barriers and strive to achieve community accessibility and acceptance.

Services offered address the specific needs of persons with disabilities who reside in Summit, Stark and Portage Counties.

- Information and Referral resources to address inquiries on housing, transportation, housing modifications, durable medical equipment, disability benefits, and nursing home and youth transitions.
- Independent Living Skills Training

- Peer Support which will allow people with disability to explore options and solve problems.
- Community Education and Technical Assistance
- Advocacy on an individual or systems level to bring about change that maximizes integration and inclusion.
- Loan Closet—Donated Equipment. Center does not purchase durable medical equipment.

Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc. is located at 680 E. Market St., Suite 205, Akron, OH 44304.

**Open Monday—Friday
8:00 am—4:30 pm
phone 330 762-0007
<http://www.tcilc.org>**



Upcoming Events

- **April 5, 2016 - Parents as Partners in the ETR Training** 9:30 am—12:30 pm, training at the Summit County ESC. To register contact Maureen Cacioppo at maureenc@cybersummit.org
- **April 14, 2016 - Parents as Partners in the IEP Training** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, training at the Summit County ESC. To register contact Maureen Cacioppo at maureenc@cybersummit.org.
- **April 16, 2016 - Summit County Transition Expo** at Ohio Means Jobs, 1040 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron, OH. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Admission is free.
- **April 20, 2016– PAC Meeting** 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. What's New in Ohio? In this open forum you will learn about legislative issues, waivers, scholarships, Medicaid and DD services. Register by emailing Alice Doyle at aliced@cybersummit.org.
- **April 20, 2016 - AT Vendor Fair** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at NEOMED, 4209 State Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272. Registration through STARS.
- **May 6, 2016 - SST8 Awards Luncheon** by Invitation.

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